LOUISIANA

FOREST SERVICE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

STATE FUNDING HISTORY	Enacted FY 2003 ($)	Enacted FY 2004 ($)	Pres. Budg. FY 2005 ($)
NEW ORLEANS			
SRS-4802 Legal & Tax	1,006,000	996,963	1,012,591
PINEVILLE			
SRS-4111 Ecol/Mgmt of Southern Pines	1,639,000	1,624,276	1,651,043
SRS-4501 Southern Pine Beetle	1,004,000	2,115,981	2,132,579
SRS-4701 Utilization	1,226,000	1,214,987	1,231,825
PINEVILLE TOTAL	3,869,000	4,955,244	5,015,447
LOUISIANA TOTAL	4,875,000	5,952,207	6,028,038

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT, a division of the USDA Forest Service (FS R&D), strives to be the "go to" organization for information and solutions to sustain forests and rangelands and the values they provide people. FS R&D has the flexibility to address today's issues effectively and to respond to tomorrow's needs. Among the world's leaders in forest conservation research, scientists contribute to the stewardship of land, real property and society by providing research results that help create jobs and affordable homes, and improve the health of trees, forests and forest ecosystems. Innovative research products permit the Forest Service and other public and private land managers to monitor and manage forest responses to environmental change, contributing significantly to the sustainability of the nation's forests and rangelands and improving human health.

FS R&D operates six research stations, the Forest Products Laboratory, and the International Institute of Tropical Forestry located in Puerto Rico. It employs over 500 scientists and hundreds of technical and support personnel at 67 field sites throughout the nation. The FY 2005 President's Budget includes $280,654,000 for Forest and Rangeland Research.

The Southern Research Station, with headquarters in Asheville, NC, and 26 Research Work Units in 11 States, conducts forest research and development in laboratories, on university campuses, and at experimental forests in the 13 Southern States (i.e., FL, LA, OK, NC, KY, GA, SC, TN, MS, TX, AR, AL, and VA). The Southern Research Station manages four Research Work Units in Louisiana, three at the Alexandria Forestry Center and one in New Orleans. The Station also

manages the Palustris Experimental Forest near Pineville, LA.

The FY 2005 President's Budget includes $50,640,000 for the Southern Research Station, an increase of $1,304,000 over the FY 2004 Final Appropriation.

NEW ORLEANS

SRS-4802, Evaluation of Legal, Tax, and Economic Influences on Forest Resource Management. The mission of the unit is to evaluate the economic implications of taxation, legislation, foreign trade and silvicultural practices on forest resource management and investment; and to develop guidelines that will support the sustainable management of forests.

PINEVILLE

Palustris Experimental Forest. The Palustris Experiment Forest, located near Pineville, consists of two separate tracts that total 7500 acres. A headquarters site is located on each tract. Numerous long-term studies evaluating the ecology and management of southern pines, as well as national studies on forest sustainability and eco-physiology are located on the Palustris.

Alexandria Forestry Center. The Alexandria Forestry Center in Pineville was constructed in 1963 to house the Forest Sciences Laboratory of the Southern Research Station, the Supervisor's Office of the Kisatchie National Forest, and Forest Pest Management of State and Private Forestry. The Center is one of the few locations where the three separate divisions of the Forest Service are co-located and share support services. The Forestry Sciences Laboratory includes an insectory, a head-house with two greenhouses, a forest products building, and a main office/laboratory building.

SRS-4111, Ecology and Management of Even-aged Southern Pine Forests. The mission of this unit is to provide fundamental knowledge on the ecology and physiology of southern pine species and even-aged management options to enhance and sustain the productivity of southern pine ecosystems. This unit also coordinates the national center for Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources, a cooperative effort among all three branches of the Forest Service. The Unit is also responsible for the Forest Service's national tribal nurseries program, providing technical assistance to Native American tribes throughout the nation.

SRS-4501, Ecology, Biology and Management of Bark Beetles and Invasive Forest Insects of Southern Conifers. The mission of the unit is to provide basic biological and ecological knowledge and innovative management strategies required for management and control of bark beetles and invasive insects of conifers in changing forest ecosystems.

SRS-4701, Utilization of Southern Forest Resources. The mission of this unit is to contribute to the sustainable and environmentally sound use of southern forest resources.

RELATED RESEARCH

Forest Inventory and Analysis Research (FIA). Forest Inventory and Analysis is administered in

Knoxville, TN, Asheville, NC, and Starkville, MS. The FIA unit develops, analyzes, and maintains forest resource information for the Southern States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands; and conducts research to provide improved inventory and evaluation techniques. The FIA program includes plot-based forest health indicators along with comprehensive forest inventory data to provide information on the status, trends, and condition of forest resources. Annualized forest inventories are currently being implemented across the South. Researchers in the FIA unit are conducting annual inventories in Louisiana, in collaboration with the State. The within-State costs for annual inventory field data collection amount to approximately $389,000.

FY 2005 PROGRAM CHANGES

- The FY 2005 President's Budget calls for increased research in areas associated with the President's Healthy Forests Initiative, including invasive species impacts, and the expansion of technology transfer activities. The FY 2005 President's Budget also provides new funding for research on water quality and quantity issues; and funding to cover inflationary fixed cost increases.
- Increased funding in the amount of $200,000 to SRS-4501 will be provided support an expanded program of research on the southern pine beetle.
- Forest Service Research and Development will lead an Agency-wide effort to optimize the delivery and practical use of research findings. This is essential to successful implementation of Forest Service priorities, including the President's Healthy Forest Initiative. Opportunities have been identified that leverage current science and technology applications efforts in healthy forests applied science, watershed management, invasive species, hazardous fuels utilization and management, and community preparedness. New funds in FY 2005 will be targeted to leading-edge technical assistance on a competitive basis.
- Funding increases of $15,475 for SRS-4802, $26,505 for SRS-4111, $16,436 for SRS-4501, and $16,674 for SRS-4701 will be used to cover fixed cost (facilities, salaries, utilities, etc.).

SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH PRODUCTS:

- Continued work on improving the quality of seed and nursery stock for the containerized longleaf pine program. This effort has led to a tremendous increase in the number of seedlings available for planting, primarily on privately owned lands. Last year approximately 85 million seedlings were produced.
- Continued work on evaluating how basic wood fiber characteristics and refining processes interact to affect the final structural strength of MDF products. The work will allow manufacturers to produce better panels with less wood, more juvenile wood, and with less energy.
- Continued work on evaluating the effects of accelerated tree growth on several different characteristics of the resulting wood. This will allow landowners to make silvicultural decisions based on the characteristics needed for specific products.
- Confirmed the first outbreak of Mexican Pine Beetle in the U.S. Station scientists are

working with scientists in Central America to study how the new beetle interacts with the SPB and an as yet undescribed third species in Belize.

- Developed technology to improve the efficiency of resin sampling that will assist in understanding natural resistance to pine beetle attack.
- Studied landowner awareness of provisions of the federal tax code. Found that 80% of landowners knew of the general provision affecting investments and capital gains, but that only 50% knew of three specific provisions for the benefit of private timber land owners. These findings show the need for continuing education of private landowners in tax matters.

SOME CLIENTS/COLLABORATORS:

Boise Cascade
Composite Panel Association
Institute of Paper Science & Technology
International Paper
Louisiana Office of Forestry
Louisiana State University
Louisiana Tech University
Southern University
Temple-Inland
Tulane University